

NOTES
Mayor Swisstack's Transition Team
[Public Safety Team Meeting](#)
Thursday, April 17, 2008
9:00 a.m. – RRRCC Conference Room

Paul Caputo opened the meeting by updating team members who weren't present last week. All team members were present. Five residents attended.

Chief Boone presented a report to the Team. He listed his top seven priorities:

1. Law Enforcement Staffing
2. Communications Facility
3. Radio Network
4. Additional Animal Control Personnel
5. Additional Administrative Positions
6. Building Expansion
7. Additional Code Enforcement Officers

Chief Boone stated that ideally he'd like to hire ten sworn officers into the department every six months until there are approximately 190 sworn officers in the department. {This number may increase due to increased growth}. The department currently has 125 sworn officers. It costs approximately \$100,000 for each new officer hired. He reiterated that it's imperative that DPS stays ahead of crime and doesn't fall behind.

Chief Tobin stated that currently there is no fire station within the vicinity of Vista Hills, Loma Colorado, RRHS. This is leading to longer response times in this area.

The following were identified as possible areas of improvement: {it's important to note that team members expressed a strong satisfaction with both DPS and Fire/Rescue. These are not meant to be a criticism of the departments.}

- resource use {are sworn officers being used effectively?}
- equipment and staffing
- public education - increased education about needs of both departments could help with funding options; refer to response times not staffing levels; essential that public is given information about the departments
- service levels
- need to improve mental health services in Rio Rancho & Sandoval County; getting help may help keep recidivism rate low
- crisis intervention teams in both DPS & Fire/Rescue

- funding needs – possibly charge back fees to AAS; take over transfers to area hospitals with dedicated medic unit; keep ambulance billing monies out of the general fund and put into Fire/Rescue department
- operational effectiveness; organizational efficiency; communication
- delivery of service
- educate public about codes and regulations; awareness and compliance may mean reduced need for service

These items were also discussed:

- 42% of the city’s operating budget goes to public safety
- only 2 vacancies in DPS; this is astonishing and proves that Rio Rancho attracts and retains quality officers
- union contract is labor friendly
- working jointly with surrounding counties and smaller towns is essential; “non-positive” residents don’t care about the city limits; crime crosses borders

After some discussion, the following were identified as the top 3 priorities of the Public Safety Team.

1. manpower {level of staffing} – organization/structure
2. expand facilities & equipment – unified communication service at 800 MHz to enable better and more reliable communication between different agencies
3. funding

The team will also incorporate the importance of mental health services into the top priorities.

For the next meeting:

Team members are to review the priorities and come up with recommendations that will be included the final report.

Next meeting:

Thursday, April 24th, 9:00 a.m. at RRRCC